

Message Text

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SUBJECT: IMPROVED POSITION OF CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT IN RELATION TO
GREEK MILITARY

1. PURSUANT TO MY EARLIER REPORTS, I BELIEVE IT MIGHT
BE USEFUL TO DESCRIBE ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS IN THE CARAMANLIS
STRUGGLE TO GET CONTROL OF THE ARMED FORCES AND ELIMINATE THE
THREAT OF A NEW COUP.

2. ONE STRONG ELEMENT FAVORING CARAMANLIS IS THE DISMAL
AND CATASTROPHIC RESULTS OF THE IOANNIDES REGIME IN MANY
RESPECTS BUT PARTICULARLY IN THE THREAT OF WAR IT BROUGHT
AND THE PAINFUL LOSS OF POSITION AND POWER OF GREEKS AND
GREEK CYPRIOTS IN CYPRUS. HIS ADMINISTRATION FRONTED BY
ANDROUTSOPOULOS HAD IN FACT COLLAPSED. WARTHREATENED AND
CIVILIAN CABINET TOLD ANDROUTSOPOULOS TO QUIT. EVEN THEY,
AS REPORTED TO ME BY ZOLOTAS, REQUESTED RETURN OF KARAMANLIS.
THE MILITARY REALIZED AT LAST THEY WERE BEYOND THEIR DEPTHS.

3. CARAMANLIS IS ALSO GIVING CLEAR IMPRESSION OF
TAKING FULL COMMAND OF THE POLITICAL LIFE IN GREECE. HIS
RESTITUTION OF THE PREFECTS, FORMER MINISTERIAL SECRETARIES
GENERAL, AND CHIEF OF ATHENS POLICE IS LOUD AND CLEAR SIGNAL
IN THIS DIRECTION. MOREOVER, THE SIGNATURE OF THE
CONSITIUENT ACT RESTORING THE 1952 CONSTITUTION (EXCEPT FOR
THE PROVISIONS REGARDING THE FORM OF THE STATE-I.E. MONARCHY
OR REPUBLIC) IS ANOTHER CLEAR INDICATION OF DIRECTION.

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4. ANOTHER ASSET, AND AN IMPORTANT ONE, THAT CARAMANLIS HAS IS AVEROFF AS MINISTER OF DEFENSE. HIS BRIDGE-BUILDING AND THE RESPECT, NOTWITHSTANDING HIS CONFESSED ROLE IN THE NAVY MUTINY IN 1973, WITH WHICH HE IS HELD BY THE MILITARY, GIVE HIM A KEY ROLE IN THE PROCESS OF SUBORDINATING ONCE AGAIN THE MILITARY TO CIVILIAN AUTHORITY IN THIS COUNTRY. HIS DECISIVE ACTION IN GETTING CARAMANLIS TO RETURN AND HIS ASSERTIVE COMMAND POSTURE WITHIN THE GREEK PENTAGON CAN BE DECISIVE IN THE PRESENT STRUGGLE.

4. AVEROFF APPEARS TO BE LEADING THE GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO COUNTERWEIGH ANY EFFORTS OF IOANNIDES AND HIS SUPPORTERS TO PREPARE TO RETURN. DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF TOOK ME ASIDE AT SWISS NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION TO TELL ME HE CONFIDENT GOG GETTING ARMED FORCES UNDER CONTROL. MAJOR SPANOS IS TO BE TRANSFERRED TO UNIT ON BULGARIAN-GREEK BORDER. IN REPLY TO MY INQUIRY ON IOANNIDES HE SAID HE BELIEVES HE HAS HARD UNDERSTANDING WITH IOANNIDES WHO HAS UNDERTAKEN TO SUPPORT CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT. HE IS ALSO WORKING ON IOANNIDES' SUPPORTERS IN KYP AND IS AWARE DYP ROLE IN SUPPORT OF INTRASIGENT YOUNGER OFFICERS. AVEROFF SAID TELEPHONES NOT SAFE YET FOR COMMUNICATION BUT WILL BE IN SEVERAL DAYS. I HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT THAT AVEROFF FULLY APPRECIATES IMPORTANCE OF BEING CERTAIN REGARDING IOANNIDES' INTENTIONS.

5. THIS POSTURE IS CONSISTENT WITH MAVROS' OPTIMISM THIS MORNING. HE PARTICULARLY UNDERLINED TO ME THE IMPORTANCE OF FACT THAT BY RESTORING 1952 CONSTITUTION BY A CONSTITUENT ACT ALREADY SIGNED BY GENERAL CHIZIKIS, AVEROFF'S AND GOVERNMENT'S POSITION VIS-A-VIS MILITARY ENORMOUSLY STRENGTHENED. CARAMANLIS LIKELY TO MOVE SOONER RATHER THAN LATER TOWARDS SOME CONSULTATION WITH THE ELECTORATE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE GREAT POPULARITY HE PRESENTLY ENJOYS.

6. IN SUMMARY, CARAMANLIS POSITION RELATING TO MILITARY CLEARLY BETTER. MAVROS WILL BRIEF MILITARY CHIEFS ON GENEVA TODAY AS WELL AS PRESIDENT GHIZIKIS, WHICH HE IS DOING WITH SOME RELUCTANCE.

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